

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cooler comprising:
5 a sidewall portion including an outer layer and an inner layer quilted to form a plurality of gel pockets; and
gel disposed in the plurality of gel pockets, wherein the cooler is foldable along regions between the gel pockets.
- 10 2. The cooler of claim 1 wherein the gel is a saline solution.
3. The cooler of claim 1 wherein quilting the outer layer and the inner layer results in a polygonal shape.
- 15 4. The cooler of claim 1 wherein quilting the outer layer and the inner layer results in a circular shape.
5. The cooler of claim 1 further comprising:
a lid including an outer layer and an inner layer quilted to form a
20 plurality of gel pockets.
6. The cooler of claim 5 wherein the lid is sealably connected to the sidewalls.
- 25 7. The cooler of claim 6 wherein the connection is selected from the group consisting of a zipper, Velcro, clips, and snaps.

8. The cooler of claim 1 further comprising:
a bottom including an outer layer and an inner layer quilted to form
a plurality of gel pockets.

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9. The cooler of claim 8 wherein the bottom is fixedly attached to the
sidewall.

10. The cooler of claim 8 wherein the bottom is attached to the sidewall
with a method selected from stitching and hot sealing.

11. The cooler of claim 9 further comprising:
a bottom flap foldably attached to a seam between the bottom and
the sidewall.

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12. A method for constructing a cooler, the method comprising:
providing an inner wall and an outer wall;
creating a pouch with the inner and outer walls;
partially filling the pouch with a gel;
creating a first gel filled portion by sealing the partially filled pouch
to contain the gel;
adding additional gel to the pouch; and
creating a second gel filled portion by sealing the partially filled
pouch to contain the additional gel.

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13. The method of claim 12 further comprising:
creating an additional predetermined number of gel filled portions.

- 5 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of
creating additional gel filled portions until the pouch is filled with gel.